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history. It cannot be that there is not more serious work for historical investigation and judgment than the mere filling out of the old personal narrative. In other words, we feel that the author does nothing toward the solution of the historical problems in which our age interests itself especially. It is said that each generation must rewrite history in the light of its own ideas of what is important and interesting. But mere personal narrative represents the ideals of a past generation rather than of our own. Perhaps this judgment is sufficiently deprecated in the author's preface, but it is none the less true for that.

E. P. CHEYNEY.

*History of the German Struggle for Liberty.* By POULTNEY BIGELOW, B. A. (New York : Harper and Brothers. 1896. Two vols., pp. xiv, 250; vi, 263.)

MR. POULTNEY BIGELOW'S *History of the German Struggle for Liberty* is hardly a history in the ordinary sense of the word. From a book presuming upon that name, we have a right to expect information which Mr. Bigelow does not give. It is not extravagant to demand a comprehensive view of the dominant government, a picture of the evolution of its organs, an analysis of the personal contributions to current political struggles ; in short, we may rightly insist that the state be regarded as a main theme of the argument to which we are invited to give hearing. Mr. Bigelow does not agree with the general opinion in this matter. I need only refer to a few examples to illustrate his neglect of the highly important political aspects of his chosen period. In the first volume he freely condemns the governmental system in vogue in Prussia before 1806. This is the notorious *Cabinets-regierung*. Have we not a right to demand that the indignation, in which we are invited to share, be fed through our intelligence by the aid of a careful exposition of this mischievous system? Again, we read concerning the reforms of Stein (I. 169): "The revolution which Stein accomplished has no parallel in history." If this is true so unique a movement deserves more than two pages, agape, moreover, with omissions. Such staring *lacunae* as these must needs detract from our opinion of the severity of Mr. Bigelow's studies.

If Mr. Bigelow's view of his task is not so comprehensive as might be desired, it must be granted, nevertheless, that his book commands our interest at the start and holds it to the end. The author has reconstructed his period with much vivacity. Once let it be understood that he is not writing for the historical professor, but for the general public rather, with its human and literary interest in the broad movements of national life, and there is easy and pleasant sailing under his pilotage. In more than one respect Mr. Bigelow's method recalls Carlyle. Mr. Bigelow, like Carlyle, scouts the painstaking elaboration of organic matter, and offers instead a rapid succession of dissolving views of men and of events. His book moves like a series of more or less connected scenes upon a stage. Many of them must be regarded as vivid

and variegated. That they, nevertheless, fall far short of Carlyle's measure of force and clarity, goes without saying. Carlyle's keen imagination does not become the property of every writer who chooses to assume his tone. But in spite of the seizing power, which can not, in general, be denied Bigelow's pictures, they are likely to cloy somewhat a delicate taste, by reason of the absence from the author's art of a certain technical refinement. Mr. Bigelow does not carry a camel's-hair brush in his artist's kit. Perhaps it summarizes his style fairly to say, that even his best chapters do not get beyond the state of the rough draught or the cartoon.

The history deals with the momentous matter included between the years 1806 and 1814. The collapse at Jena is its introduction, the triumphal entry into Paris its epilogue. Our narrative leaves no doubt that it was a fossilized, and, therefore, foredoomed government which was interred by Napoleon through the agency of his great victory. Prussia was an absolute monarchy and, since the holder of it was unfit for his place, the monarchy had to go under. The whole despicability of the unworthy Hohenzollern, Frederick William III., who lent his ear frequently to only two councillors, dullness and his twin-brother, timidity, is set in sardonic relief. Then comes the reconstruction of Prussia on a new and popular basis. The monarchy took the revolutionary and unheard-of step which the patriots urged unceasingly, and sought salvation out of ruin by an appeal to the people. The eighteenth-century despotism was thus converted into a really national kinship. The transformation, beyond doubt, saved Prussia and its royal house. As one of the most remarkable features of the age of reforms stands forth the attitude of Frederick William. He remains throughout the immovable tory, and if his throne was founded anew after Jena it was not through his efforts, but in spite of them. It is here that Mr. Bigelow is at his best. His narrative takes on a warmer glow, and he follows with sympathy and with vivacity the struggles of the patriots, of Stein, of Gneisenau, of Scharnhorst, of Blücher, of Hardenberg, which resulted in the renewal of the Prussian national life, and through it of the life of the state. The genius which floats over the country in its hour of darkness, shedding light and courage, is Queen Louise. Perhaps Mr. Bigelow makes too much of the dramatic possibility which lies in this queen's name, but we must, in any case, be thankful to him for offering us the frequent views he presents of so thoroughly lovely and refreshing a princess. The excerpts from her diary (I. 209 seq.) which could well bear publication in full, fasten on the mind the image of a rare Christian tenderness and humility.

Our final word must be one of very qualified acceptance. To make even a good popular book, a revision seems indispensable. Small errors of fact, over and under-statements, are annoyingly frequent. It would be, above all, well to reconsider the basic principle of the work, the treatment by episodes. The single chapters are carried backward and forward in time almost at will, with the result that they cut across each

other continually, to the detriment of the rules of logic and æsthetics. I also venture to put forth the iconoclastic suggestion that the illustrations be removed. Even if they were good, the taste which incorporated them in a serious work might be impugned, but as they are quite indifferent, there is absolutely no excuse for them, and in their total they do not weigh as much as three or four excellent reproductions of original portraits.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

*A Cycle of Cathay, or China South and North, with Personal Reminiscences.* By W. A. P. MARTIN, D.D., LL.D. (New York, Chicago, Toronto: The Fleming H. Revell Company. 1896. Pp. 464.)

DR. MARTIN, until recently President of the Tung wen College at Peking, is so well known to all foreigners who have within the last thirty years visited the capital of China, his intimate knowledge of Chinese is so universally acknowledged, and his long acquaintance with most of the statesmen, who have risen to prominence in connection with foreign affairs since the opening of Peking to the western world in 1860, has been such an unique privilege, that his reminiscences of the cycle he has passed in Cathay, contained in the present volume, could not fail to prove of considerable interest.

The first part of this book is taken up with the Doctor's missionary experiences in southern China extending from 1850 to 1858 and is, I fear, of but little interest to the reader of the present day, who has become thoroughly familiar with the experiences of that class of foreigners in China. It is noteworthy that the Protestant missionary in the fifties was, as his successor of the present day still is, much given to losing the guileless young neophytes in the abstruse mazes of Christian theology. Thus Dr. Martin tells us (p. 69) of some of his, probably illiterate, catechists being examined for admission to a church on "the mystery of the hypostatic union of persons in the Trinity"—which in this special case was the more to be deplored as the teacher himself appears to have professed heterodox views on this unfathomable mystery.

The second part of the work is devoted to the Doctor's life in Peking, from 1860 to 1893, during which he was President of the Government College and semi-official legal adviser of the Foreign Office, and contains much of interest on the progress of western studies in China and on the notabilities of the capital. The pages devoted to Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of Maritime Customs, to Prince Kung, to Li Hung-chang and the Marquis Tseng are peculiarly interesting and give, I think, an impartial and fairly correct appreciation of the character and services of these eminent men. It is but just to note, however, that the Doctor is not always impartial in his estimation of men. His criticisms (p. 184) of Mr. W. B. Reed, our first minister to China, on whose staff he served as assistant interpreter, during the negotiation of the treaty